

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A parts procurement system, comprising:

virtual production line preparation means for preparing a virtual production line in which objects manufactured thereon are virtually placed in sequence based on long-term production plan data that is more than one month covering variable production of the objects and fixed production plan data covering fixed production of the objects;

parts ordering means for determining parts and the number of the parts necessary for manufacturing the objects on the virtual production line prepared by the virtual production line preparation means, as well as calculating the parts ordering timing based on a production timing of the objects and parts delivery lead time; and

correction means for correcting the virtual production line prepared by the virtual production line preparation means according to actual production results of the objects, wherein the parts ordering means places a parts order after calculating the parts ordering timing based on the corrected virtual production line;

wherein the correction means changes the virtual production line by detecting a production progress; and

wherein detecting the production progress includes detecting objects that have completed production from the production line.

3-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A parts procurement system comprising a controller that:

prepares a virtual production line in which objects manufactured thereon are virtually placed in sequence based on long-term production plan data that is more than one month covering variable production of the objects and fixed production plan data covering fixed production of the objects;

determines parts and the number of the parts necessary for manufacturing the objects on the prepared virtual production line, and calculates the parts ordering timing based on a production timing of the objects and parts delivery lead time; and

corrects the prepared virtual production line according to actual production results of the objects, and places a parts order after calculating the parts ordering timing based on the corrected virtual production line;

wherein the controller changes the prepared virtual production line by detecting parameter of a production progress; and

wherein detecting the production progress includes detecting objects that have completed production from the production line.

11-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of procuring parts, comprising:

preparing a virtual production line in which objects manufactured thereon are virtually placed in sequence based on long-term production plan data that is more than one month covering variable production of the objects and fixed production plan data covering fixed production of the objects;

determining parts and the number of the parts necessary for manufacturing the objects on the prepared virtual production line;

calculating the parts ordering timing based on a production timing of the objects and parts delivery lead time;

correcting the prepared virtual production line according to actual production results of the objects; and

placing a parts order after calculating the parts ordering timing based on the corrected virtual production line;

wherein the prepared virtual production line is changed by detecting of a production progress; and

wherein detecting the production progress includes detecting objects that have completed production from the production line.

19-24. (Canceled)